

year 1999, the bicentennial of Washington's death, may be further consecrated. Therefore, I am introducing a Sense of the Senate Resolution calling upon the Citizen's Stamp Advisory Committee to issue a stamp which celebrates the leadership and courage possessed by Washington.

The life of this great patriot is an extraordinary parable of nationalism and a belief in the power of a republican form of government. Upon emerging victorious in the Revolutionary War, General Washington laid aside the instruments of destruction to craft a young nation. Discarding any intimations of personal glory, Washington spurned the title of Monarch and instead chose to model the new country on the ancient principles of democracy. He was truly a "First among Equals". Washington was very much aware of the momentous nature of the first presidential term for our emerging democracy. He wrote,

I walk on untrodden ground. There is scarcely any part of my conduct which may not hereafter be drawn into precedent.

We must, as a Nation, recognize the value of responsibility. Washington shouldered the responsibility of his two terms in office with grace and dignity, ever aware that he would be an example for countries around the world for time eternal. Through a heightened cognizance of the actions and beliefs of Washington, we can convey the true meaning of service to our Nation. I ask my colleagues what better way to honor such a man, than to devote a year to honoring his life. In this pursuit, it is fitting to request that a George Washington stamp be issued in 1999. Let us reflect upon the tradition of character of our Nation, inaugurated by our first President. Washington will remain, "First in War, first in Peace, and first in the hearts of his Countrymen." I look forward to the swift passage of this legislation.

Mr. ROBB. Mr. President, I rise today to join the Senior Senator from Virginia, Mr. WARNER, in submitting a concurrent resolution expressing the sense of the Senate that the Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee examine issuing a stamp to commemorate the 200th anniversary of the death of our first President, George Washington.

I hardly need to expound on the legacy George Washington has provided our nation—his courageous leadership through the Revolutionary War, his vision as our first President, and his personal example as a citizen.

I recently joined Senator WARNER and Senator GRAHAM in introducing a resolution, S. Con. Res. 83, calling on the country to commemorate the 200th anniversary of Washington's death with ceremonies and activities that explore the life and legacy of George Washington. Given the formative influence of this distinguished man on our nation, I also believe it is appropriate to ask the Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee to authorize a stamp in honor of the historic anniversary of

President Washington's passing. I encourage all of my colleagues to become cosponsors of this resolution so that we can send a clear message to the Committee and our fellow citizens about the importance we place upon President Washington's legacy.

SENATE RESOLUTION 216—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE REGARDING JAPAN'S DIFFICULT ECONOMIC CONDITION

Mr. LIEBERMAN (for himself, Mr. LUGAR, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. BROWNBACK, Mr. BINGAMAN, and Mr. ROCKEFELLER) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 216

Whereas the United States and Japan share common goals of peace, stability, democracy, and economic prosperity in the Asia-Pacific Region;

Whereas the current economic crisis in the Asia-Pacific Region represents a new challenge to United States-Japan cooperation to achieve these common goals;

Whereas the Japanese economy, the second largest in the world, has been growing a little over 1 percent annually since 1991 and most forecasts suggest that Japan is unlikely to experience any significant growth in the near future;

Whereas Japan's is the second largest trading partner of the United States and accounts for 11 percent of our total foreign trade;

Whereas Japan accounts for over 70 percent of the Asia-Pacific Region's gross domestic product and therefore has a particular interest in the stability of the Region's economic and financial system;

Whereas a strong United States-Japan alliance is critical to American forward engagement and stability in the Asia-Pacific Region;

Whereas the importance of the United States-Japan alliance was reaffirmed by the President of the United States and the Prime Minister of Japan in the April 1996 Joint Security Declaration;

Whereas United States-Japan bilateral military cooperation was enhanced with the revision of the United States-Japan Guidelines for Defense Cooperation in 1997;

Whereas Japan's failure to contribute to the Region's recovery from the current economic crisis or failure to prevent a further contraction of the Japanese economy could undermine regional stability, cause a setback in the close United States-Japan bilateral security cooperation achieved over the past 3 years, and increase Japan's bilateral and global trade surplus;

Whereas the low level of foreign direct investment in Japan, at less than 1 percent of Japan's gross domestic product compared to foreign direct investment in the United States of over 8 percent of the United States gross domestic product, contributes to large external trade imbalances and impedes market access for competitive foreign firms and products;

Whereas the United States bilateral trade deficit with Japan increased from \$48,000,000,000 in 1996 to \$56,000,000,000 in 1997 and has recently increased from \$4,000,000,000 in January of 1998 to \$5,300,000,000 in February of 1998;

Whereas the recent weakness in the yen, following a more than 20 percent depreciation of the yen against the dollar over the last few years, has placed competitive price

pressures on United States industries and workers;

Whereas a period of deflation in Japan would lead to lower demand for United States products;

Whereas the estimated \$574,000,000,000 of problem loans in Japan's banking sector has the potential to threaten the recovery of the Asia-Pacific Region and could destabilize global capital markets;

Whereas the unnecessary and burdensome regulation of the Japanese market constrains Japanese economic growth, raises the costs to business and consumers, lowers the standard of living, and impedes imports;

Whereas the United States strongly encourages Japan to pursue a domestic demand-led economic recovery and thereby prevent further increases in Japan's external trade surplus;

Whereas the Japanese Government has responded to the Asia-Pacific Region's economic crisis with financial commitments of approximately \$19,000,000,000 to the International Monetary Fund; and

Whereas the United States appreciates Japan's efforts to stimulate its economy with the recently announced package of 16,000,000,000,000 yen that includes 4,500,000,000,000 yen in tax cuts and 11,500,000,000,000 yen in government spending: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the Senate that—

(1) the American people and the countries in the Asia-Pacific Region are looking for a demonstration of Japanese leadership and close United States-Japan cooperation in resolving the current crisis;

(2) encouraging the strengthening of the Japanese economy should be one of the Administration's central priorities in all its bilateral and multilateral discussions with Japan;

(3) every effort possible should be made to ensure that all other negotiating objectives are consistent with the overall goal of promoting economic growth in Japan, improving market access to Japan, and restoring stability to international financial markets;

(4) the President should continue to voice his serious concern about the economic situation in Japan, the international, regional, and bilateral implications of the situation, and the need to address significant structural impediments to competition in the Japanese markets, in order to restore confidence in the Japanese economy and contribute to the Asia-Pacific Region's political stability and economic recovery;

(5) the President, the Attorney General, the Secretary of the Treasury, and the United States Trade Representative should emphasize the importance of financial deregulation, including banking reform, market deregulation, and restructuring bad bank debt;

(6) the President, the Secretary of the Treasury, the United States Trade Representative, and the Secretary of Commerce should press vigorously for comprehensive and urgent deregulation and fundamental structural reform of the Japanese economy and sectoral markets, liberalization of the distribution system, and elimination of non-tariff barriers and anticompetitive business practices that restrict the free flow of competitive goods and services, in order to increase market efficiencies and enhance competition, lower prices, improve market access, and redress global trade imbalances;

(7) the President, the United States Trade Representative, the Secretary of Commerce, and the Attorney General should continue to press for—

(A) increased antitrust enforcement by the Japan Fair Trade Commission, and

(B) strengthening of the Antimonopoly Act to eliminate private practices that restrict competition;

(8) the President, the Secretary of the Treasury, the United States Trade Representative, the Secretary of Commerce, and the Secretary of State should urge the Government of Japan to open the Japanese market to increased foreign direct investment and eliminate barriers to foreign direct investment in order to increase the competitiveness of the Japanese economy and stimulate investment and consumer spending; and

(9) restoring economic growth in Japan and stability in international financial markets should be given the highest attention at the upcoming meeting of the G-7 countries that will be held in Birmingham, England.

Mr. LIEBERMAN. Mr. President, I rise today to offer a bipartisan resolution expressing the sense of the Senate regarding Japan's difficult current economic condition.

I am privileged to do so on behalf of my original cosponsors, Senator LUGAR, Senator GRAHAM, Senator BROWNBACK, Senator BINGAMAN, and Senator ROCKEFELLER.

Mr. President, for the last 46 years almost to the day—since April of 1952, when the American occupation of Japan ended and immediately our two Nations entered into a security agreement—the United States and Japan have shared the common goals of peace, stability, democracy and prosperity in the Asia-Pacific region and throughout the world.

The fact is that Japan has been our most critical strategic ally and our most important economic partner in the region. We have worked together to bring unprecedented prosperity and security to our people's through mutual understanding and cooperation. The importance of the United States-Japan alliance was reaffirmed by President Clinton and Prime Minister Hashimoto in the April 1996 Joint Security Declaration and the United States-Japan bilateral military cooperation critical to our security in the Asia-Pacific region. It was enhanced with the revision and promulgation of the United States-Japan Guidelines for Defense Cooperation in 1997.

Japan is our second largest trading partner—not in Asia but in the world—and a huge and growing consumer of American goods and services. Japan imported \$65.6 billion of American goods in 1997, third only to our neighbors to the north and south, Canada and Mexico. That figure has increased 37 percent from 1992 to 1997. In addition, Japan has played an important role in the current Asian financial crisis with financial commitments of approximately \$19 billion through the International Monetary Fund, while we, as the news indicates today, have trouble coming up with a comparable amount authorized by members of Congress.

However, the current economic crisis in Japan is real and represents a new and serious challenge to United States-Japan cooperation to achieve the common goals of economic prosperity and national security. We must not allow

this extraordinary bilateral relationship to falter at this critical time, but, rather, we should do everything in our power to support the people of Japan and encourage the Government of Japan to implement new policies that will promote strong and sustained economic recovery.

In less than a decade, Japan's economy has slowed so much that pundits have coined the phrase "passing Japan," meaning that many in the world now look past Japan and toward its continental neighbor, China, as the economic engine for Asia. But I take these observations to be premature. Japan retains enormous long-term economic strength but, nonetheless, has some very serious immediate economic problems which cannot be ignored. Experts believe that Japan's economy will be stagnant or shrink this year; real industrial output was down 3 percent for the first 2 months of this year. Unemployment, while still low by world standards and American standards, is at approximately 3.6 percent, which is a 45-year high in Japan, in a society that, incidentally, lacks the kind of social safety nets that we have built in our country. The Nikkei Index is hovering around 15,000, near its lowest level in 10 years; bad and doubtful bank debts are estimated at an astounding \$574 billion; the Asian crisis has dried up an important source of trade and corporate earnings for the Japanese economy—that is, the regional crisis—and the Bank of Japan's most recent Tankan survey showed Japanese business outlook for the future to be gloomy.

At least so far, we have been fortunate that the fallout on our economy from Japan's economic woes, as well as the collapse of the other troubled Asian economies, has been minimal. That is another way of validating the enormous resilience and strength in the American economy. Nonetheless, we have had serious and real early warning signs. In the trade figures announced last week, we see evidence that Japan's economic troubles are starting to have a direct impact on us here in the United States. If Japan's economy continues to deteriorate, there is good reason to believe that it will affect our ability to create jobs and to sustain current GDP growth.

Today, my colleagues and I introduce this resolution to express to our President and to the Government of Japan that the Congress of the United States is deeply concerned about Japan's poor economic performance and the pressure it is putting on our overall bilateral relationship. It is widely agreed among economists throughout the world, including most that I have read about in Japan, that more than a quick-fix fiscal stimulus is needed to address the underlying problems that are now being seen in the Japanese economy.

In that regard, I was very encouraged to see that earlier today Prime Minister Hashimoto announced a more long-term approach to restoring eco-

nomie growth in Japan than had previously been presented by his government. Along with the details of the Japanese Government's \$123 billion stimulus package, the Prime Minister announced today that he would delay by 2 years his self-imposed deadline to balance the national budget. That is a significant change. This will provide the opportunity for Mr. Hashimoto to make his proposed income and targeted tax cuts permanent. And I believe this is the right policy and will help lead Japan out of its current economic troubles.

The resolution that we submit today also calls for a number of fundamental economic reforms in Japan—deregulation of the Japanese economy, improvement of market access, and enforcement of fair trade. These are all actions which should increase the competitiveness of the Japanese markets and of Japanese companies and provide greater opportunities for investment in Japan and for the success of individual entrepreneurs within that country.

Finally, the resolution describes the implications of the weakening Japanese yen which could lead to another round of competitive currency devaluations throughout the region. Of particular concern is the effect of the weak yen on the Chinese yuan. Further devaluation of the yen could lead to a devaluation of the yuan, an event with significant ramifications of the regional, global and, therefore, of course, American economies.

For economic, political and strategic reasons, we must support and encourage economic reform in Japan. It is absolutely necessary. In the end, a more open and healthy Japanese economy is in the interest of the Japanese and American people. The sooner Japan recovers from its economic problems, the sooner the United States, Japan, and the world will reap the benefits of a stable and growing Asian-Pacific region.

As we express our concerns about Japan's current economic difficulties, we must also remember the very significant economic strengths that Japan has. It is the second largest economy in the world, second only to ours, and maintains enormous human and capital assets. The fact is that one of this century's most dramatic stories is Japan's rise to economic superpower status, achieved by a citizenry dedicated to education, hard work, and fiscal responsibility. Japan is the most literate society in the world, and 94 percent of the population completes high school. The Japanese save more than any other people in the world. I know some critics may argue that too much savings is not good for the economy, but the point I want to make here is that in Japan saving is a virtue, as it was for a large parts of our own history. We lost that truth for a period of time and, fortunately, we are now recovering it, saving in larger numbers again, and that is part of the reason why our economy is doing so much better today.

Japan also maintains huge foreign reserves and continues to be a major contributor to international organizations. Unlike the United States, Japan is a net creditor nation. Simply put, Japan's potential for the 21st century continues to be very bright. Its strategic importance to the United States continues to be critical. Long into the next century, Japan will remain our economic trading partner and strategically, sharing our goals of regional and world prosperity and peace.

Given the significance of the current crisis in Japan and the importance of Congress making its voice heard on this crisis, I urge my colleagues to review and hopefully support this bipartisan resolution.

Mr. ROCKEFELLER. Mr. President, as someone who has had a tremendous interest in Japan throughout my life, I have gained a great deal by maintaining direct and meaningful contact with Japan as a country, a people and a fascinating culture since my days as a student there in the 1950s. And although it is tested constantly, I truly believe the relationship between Japan and the United States continues to be strong. It is a relationship based on shared interests in democracy and the market economy, as well as mutual respect and fundamental friendship. It is from that perspective—as a friend of the Japanese people—that I feel it is so important to introduce this resolution today with my esteemed colleagues.

It was not very long ago that Americans were up in arms about the trade deficit and Japan in particular—blaming the Japanese and other foreign countries bitterly for plant closings, job losses and our long list of economic ills. It was a very difficult time for our relationship with Japan, and a very difficult time for America as we struggled to get our own economic house in order.

It was, however, also a cathartic time that I think was both inevitable and ultimately healthy for both countries.

During that time, the United States was going through its own banking difficulties with the S&L scandals that saw many of our banks close their doors. Unemployment was way up and wages were stagnating. Our federal deficit was exploding and our national debt was climbing into the trillions. And corporations, many of which had traditionally employed their workers throughout their lifetime, were shedding employees by the thousands.

The pressure to change intensified, as the American people watched our edge in certain industries and technologies slip and our people's anxieties and personal pain grow. The pressures strained our political system. In a nation of great diversity, ideas were born and rejected, consensus embraced, then rejected. While the U.S. still has plenty of room for improvement, I think there would be a large consensus that would agree that the United States has effectively tackled many of our "structural

problems"—the ones that Japan was right to point out to us so often.

Today, Japan faces a similar crisis. A creeping economic crisis that has profound and dangerous implications for all of Asia, and the world. At stake, in my opinion, is Japan's leadership in the world and the stabilization of the Asian economies. This world and the United States cannot move forward successfully, without Japan's leadership.

I feel so strongly about this and that is why this resolution is so very important. It is not to speak harshly of Japan, but to push for an honest, frank discussion, among friends, to talk about the very serious issues facing Japan that could lead to problems around the world.

I would remind my colleagues that this crisis is not a recent phenomenon. For more than six years, we have had warnings of problems on the horizon. Many Japanese have told me the biggest mistake that Japan could make would be to continue to delay action and postpone reform. One of the things I and many Japan watchers worry about is that because of Japan's strong financial reserves, they will somehow get through this crisis, and there will be those who say, "see everything is OK. The system works fine;" that Japan will get through this crisis without learning anything from it.

By turning inward and ignoring the need for change, at the moment that Japan is challenged to lead, Japan risks abdicating its long term global and regional security and economic responsibilities to emerging powers like China or even India. This has serious implications for the United States, as well.

In terms of Japan, it is hard to not believe that Japan will once again face the problems that require action, and come out stronger as a result. The Japanese know more than anyone that many so-called "Japan watchers" in the United States and elsewhere are more pessimistic—saying that the talk in Japan of reform, adjustment, and stimulating the economy from within is not real. But when I think of Japan's history and what Japan's leaders in government and business know about economic success, I still personally choose to be more optimistic.

I recall 1973, with the oil shock and the end of the Bretton Woods system, when it led the Japanese to a national commitment to reduce energy consumption and to increase energy efficiency. The overall effect on Japan as a whole was dramatic and impressive.

Again, in 1985, with the Plaza Accord, when the yen began its dramatic strengthening—resulting in a commitment from Japanese industry to become much more efficient and squeeze out enormous waste and costs. The result was an incredibly competitive manufacturing machine.

Now it is 1998, when the problems of other Asian countries require plans for international bail-outs and very harsh

measures. President Clinton has called on Japan to become the engine of growth and recovery in Asia. I agree with him and encourage him to continue pushing Japan. Frankly put, Japan's future depends on a prosperous Asia and world. And America's future does as well.

But, we also need to be realistic about what can and cannot work in Japan. American or European solutions to problems will not necessarily work there. If Japan is to lead Asia out of this crisis, Japan needs to move more quickly to recognize the extent of this problem and to find the uniquely Japanese solutions to them. But, only Japan can chart Japan's future.

Japan needs to continue to work toward the reforms in their regulatory system which Prime Minister Hashimoto has begun. While there has been some small movement on this front, still, many more regulations remain that are a strait jacket on competition and free commerce. Telecommunications, housing and distribution are all sectors ripe for deregulation.

In a similar vein, opening Japanese markets to more products, particularly products from Asia, is critical to the Asian recovery. This won't be easy—and that's where leadership comes in—especially as Japan itself struggles to regain its balance. Open markets, over the long term, will position Japan to become the leader of a reborn Asian miracle.

One extremely important foundation in a Japanese recovery, and in promoting Japanese economic leadership in an Asian recovery, is the fostering of a new pluralism of ideas in their political system. Every nation goes through times of introspection. America often does. Certainly, a national dialogue in Japan on this crisis and how to emerge from it stronger than ever, can't hurt. And efforts to institute significant political reform here should not be slowed. Diet Members, as the most direct representatives of their districts, need to become actively engaged in finding solutions. At all levels of government, accountability is key. Ministers need to have the power to lead their departments, and become responsible for their success and failure. Bureaucrats need to take orders, as easily as they give them.

Over and over again, my Japanese friends point to the fact that Ministry of Finance and its bureaucracy has a far greater influence on policy than is appropriate and prudent in a parliamentary democracy. This has been said to me by Japanese time and time again over a number of years. It would seem to me, and not to be idealistic here, that the ministry ought to reflect the views of the Prime Minister and those elected to represent the people, and not the reverse. In our country this is a subject of extensive discussion and complaint by people who care about Japan. Accountability in a democracy is paramount.

Why should it be that when I meet the Minister of Finance, or any Minister for that matter, that I know that I'm not speaking to the person who makes the decisions? How can that be in a democracy? In Great Britain they share Japan's Parliamentary system, but their cabinet agencies reflect the views of the Prime Minister and the people who elect the parliament, and they run the agency. Of course the Ministers consult with the bureaucrats, but they are held accountable for reflecting the Prime Minister's views and the national will. Unfortunately, that can't be said about today's Japan.

I also find it ironic that the political reforms, such as single delegate districts, that were supposed to open up Japan's democracy and decision making, have not brought about the fundamental change in the system that everyone expected. The lack of a strong multi-party system, with a strong and viable opposition party remains a barrier to reform and serves as a wall through which ideas and change cannot penetrate.

Just as Americans still have much to learn from Japan's successes, my point must also be to emphasize that we are affected by how Japan handles the challenges now posed by the weaker parts of their economy. Our relationship is not just a matter of the ties between our leaders, the tremendously important military alliance we share or the many forms of business and investment we transact between one another. We are increasingly connected through currencies, our banking systems and loan policies, the value of stocks, and whether Japan puts too much emphasis on exporting its way out of the problems rather than internal measures. We in the U.S. hope that our economic condition will insulate ourselves from the downturns in Asia. But we have to worry about markets shrinking for our products and especially any growth in our sizable trade deficit with Japan.

My biggest fear is that if the Asian crisis remains unchecked, and average Americans begin to feel the impact of the succeeding market collapses on their incomes, they will begin to question Japan's national resolve and political will to deal with these problems. I especially don't want to see any further reasons for Americans to turn within or fear an active role in world trade. Throughout my political career, I have pushed very hard in my state of West Virginia for open markets, a global economy and fought against the forces of isolation and protectionism. Competition has served both my state and my country, and they will Japan as well.

So, the actions Japan takes, or does not take, will affect America, as surely as they will their neighbors in Asia.

I hope both our nations' leaders will continue to place the utmost importance on the U.S.-Japan relationship. Its strength is the basis for honesty with one another, for the ability to ad-

dress problems together, and to pursue regional and shared objectives. We also must maintain and nurture this strength, which especially requires us to appreciate the role that our economies have on one another—because of their effect on our people and our sense of ourselves as nations. And this is a time when steps are more urgently required to ensure progress and prevent any kind of setback. I pledge to do my part in continuing to promote the importance and the potential of a strong, close U.S.-Japan relationship at all levels.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

COMMEMORATION OF THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

• Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I rise today as I and a number of my colleagues do every year to mark and remember a dark day in human history: The beginning of the systematic extermination of 1.5 million Armenian men, women, and children.

On April 24, 1915—eighty-three years ago—the Ottoman Empire launched a brutal and unconscionable policy of mass murder. Over an eight year period, 1.5 million Armenians were killed, and another 500,000 were driven from their homes, their land and property confiscated.

As we remember the dark past of the Armenian people, however, our act of remembrance also offers the opportunity to celebrate hope and the resilience of the human spirit. Today, the people of Armenia can look to a promising future, as they continue to work for democracy and peace in their homeland.

The Armenian genocide was the first genocide of the twentieth century, an appalling precursor to events in Nazi Germany, Soviet Russia, Cambodia, Bosnia and Central Africa, as well as too numerous other places. As we mark this day of remembrance, people of conscience around the world must redouble our commitment to fight for human dignity and freedom, and vow to never again allow genocide to occur.●

THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

• Mr. D'AMATO. Mr. President, April 24th is the day we remember the horrors inflicted upon the Armenians in Turkey during World War I and afterward. Today, we express our solidarity with Armenians everywhere, and reflect upon the meaning of their suffering and sacrifice. We mourn the dead, and express our condolences to their living descendants. During that terrible tragedy, about 1.5 million people were killed.

The massacres and deportations of the Armenians during that period were a forerunner of subsequent horrors perpetrated against other peoples. The Armenians were the first victims of geno-

cide in this century, when civilian populations, defined by ethnicity, race or religion, have been targeted by soldiers or paramilitary groups, and in some cases, by sovereign states using all their instruments of military power to destroy a people.

We mark this day so as never to forget what happened, and to strengthen our conviction to prevent any recurrences in the future. Not only against Armenians, but against any people.

During and after World War I, Armenians did not have a state of their own. Today, independent Armenia defends Armenians everywhere, and they, in turn, protect the interests of their ancient homeland. Armenia is a country of great promise, despite its many troubles. We fervently hope that the efforts of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe's Minsk Group will be successful and the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict will be resolved peacefully. We pray that we may see a prosperous Armenia living in peace with all its neighbors, continuing to teach the world lessons, as a light unto the nations.●

THE 83RD ANNIVERSARY OF THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

• Mr. SARBANES. Mr. President, I rise to join my colleagues in commemorating the 83rd anniversary of the Armenian genocide, which consumed the lives of one and a half million men, women and children. Today, as we remember the sacrifice of the Armenian people, we honor them by renewing our commitment to protecting the fundamental rights and freedoms of all humanity.

It is imperative, Mr. President, that no nation or individual ever forget the injustices suffered by the Armenians in 1915. Perhaps the most prominent witness to the Armenian genocide was Henry Morgenthau, the U.S. Ambassador to Turkey at the time, who described the wide-scale and deliberate orchestration of atrocities against the Armenian people as "the Greatest Horror in History." He later wrote,

"Whatever crimes the most perverted instincts of the human mind can devise, and whatever refinements of persecutions and injustice the most debased imagination can conceive, became the daily misfortunes of this devoted people. I am confident that the whole history of the human race contains no such horrible episode as this. The great massacres and persecutions of the past seem almost insignificant when compared to the sufferings of the Armenian race in 1915. The killing of the Armenian people was accompanied by the systematic destruction of churches, schools, libraries, treasures of art and of history in an attempt to eliminate all traces of a noble civilization some three thousand years old."

Ambassador Morgenthau's assessment of the great tragedy was consonant with public reporting at the